

STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING
June 18, 2015
Ramada Lansing Hotel and Conference Center
7501 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing, MI 48917

MINUTES

Call to Order: Commissioner Michael Sheehan called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Introduction of New State Advisory Council on Aging (SAC) Members:

Commissioner Sheehan welcomed the new SAC members, and asked them to introduce themselves: Sandra Falk-Michaels, Region 1C, Angela Perone, Region 1B, and Gary Scholten, Region 3A.

Roll Call: Gloria Lanum called the roll and a quorum was present.

Present: Commissioner Michael Sheehan, Chairperson, John Murphy, Vice-Chairperson, Regina Allen, Nellie Blue, Georgia Durga, Kathleen Earle, Sandra Falk-Michaels, Thomas Hartwig, Elizabeth Ireland-Curtis, Kathleen Johnston-Calati, Mary Jones, Victoria Laupp, Nicolette McClure, Gerald McCole, Perry Ohren, Roy Pentilla, Angela Perone, Gene Pisha, Gary Scholten, Linda Strohl, Terry Vear, Susan Vick, Wendy White, Virginia Wood-Broderick, and Ex-Officio Members: Robyn Ford and Elizabeth Thompson

Excused: Alan Bond, Kellie Boyd, Vicente Castellanos, Charles Corwin, Lois Hitchcock, Kenneth Kurtz, Barbara Leo, Pamela McKenna, Jean Peters, Mary Lou Proefrock, Donald Ryan, Mona Sashital, Kathleen Williams-Newell, and John Zimmerman

Guests: Commissioner Gerald Irby, Ryan Cowmeadow, Region 1B AAA, and Hollis Turnham, PHI

Office of Services to the Aging (OSA) Staff present: Kari Sederburg, Gloria Lanum, Lauren Swanson-Aprill, and Scott Wamsley

Agenda: The State Advisory Council (SAC) approved the agenda as presented.

Minutes: The SAC approved the March 19, 2015, minutes as presented.

Introduction of Guest Commissioner: Commissioner Sheehan introduced and welcomed Commissioner Gerald Irby.

Aging and Adult Services Agency (AASA) Director's Report: Kari Sederburg

Report: Kari recognized SAC member Richard Zeck who is moving to North Carolina to be the executive director of a commission on aging in Greenville (www.pittcoa.com). She also recognized SAC member Regina Allen of Lansing who was chosen as Michigan's Fabulous Older Adult, one of 50 fabulous older people from 50 states, celebrating 50 years of the Older Americans Act. A Golden Jubilee is planned to

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highlight outstanding senior volunteers that help make our nation a great place to grow old.

Regina Allen retired from the Social Security Administration and is a long-time advocate for senior issues. She is knowledgeable and unfailing in her attempts to influence public policies impacting older adults. She is a long-time member of the SAC and Region 6 Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council, among many other memberships. Congratulations Regina!

State Budget Update: Governor Snyder is signing the FY 16 budget on Wednesday, June 17th. While this budget does not include any funding increases for aging-related programs, it does sustain the FY 15 levels – meaning no cuts! And--it includes the increases from last year – AASA will continue to have the \$1M for elder abuse prevention and the \$5M for meals and in-home services. More information about the budget may be found at www.michigan.gov/snyder.

Michigan Department of Health & Human Services (MDHHS) Update: The Office of Adult Services in the former Michigan Department of Human Services (MDHS) has officially joined the AASA team! This office is led by Cynthia Farrell and they oversee policies and procedures for Adult Protective Services, Home Help and Independent Living Services. Please join us in welcoming Cynthia, Rachel Richards, Michelle McGuire, Candace Pilarski, Rachel Telder, and Ed Dinkgrave.

We are continuing to meet with the department on our expanded scope. With Medicaid Director Steve Fitton retiring, no final decisions have been made about the Medicaid long-term care programs. AASA will be sure to keep the SAC updated as those discussions continue.

Older Michiganians Day – Huge Success! Nearly 1,000 older adults, senior advocates and other aging partners and supporters gathered at the Capitol on June 2nd for the eighth annual Older Michiganians Day. It was a great day filled with speakers from our network and key lawmakers. Our office held a ceremony for the two Senior Citizens of the Year, Joe Evans of Jackson and Julian Lauren of Detroit. Unfortunately Julian passed away before he could receive the award, but thirty-plus of his friends came out to show their support and celebrate his life. It was a great day, and a HUGE thank you to Chairman Mast and Commissioner Ilardo for attending!

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day – June 15th: Monday was World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. AASA participated in a press conference with Jewish Senior Life to celebrate the opening of their elder abuse shelter in SE Michigan. Jewish Senior Life was one of the elder abuse grant award winners. In addition, the governor also created a proclamation to raise awareness, which will be shared at the Commission on Services to the Aging (CSA) meeting on Friday.

The Week of Summits:

Elder Justice Summit

The Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan (PAAM), in partnership with Cynthia and her team, put on a really thought-provoking Elder Justice Summit last week. There were more than 160 people in attendance from around the state. Kudos to everyone who planned the event – and participated!

Nutrition Summit

Last week AASA staff member Sherri King hosted a nutrition summit in Roscommon. It was very well attended and I've heard nothing but positive feedback about the event. Kudos to Sherri and the team who helped make the summit a success!

White House Conference on Aging – July 13th: The 2015 White House Conference on Aging (WHCOA) will be held **Monday, July 13, 2015**. As the conference will be live streamed online, we may pull together a viewing party in our office. If you're interested in joining us, please let me know. You can also watch it <https://www.whitehouse.gov/live>.

Old Business

Commission Report: Commissioner Irby provided a brief report about the May 15, 2015, CSA meeting held at the Ramada Lansing Hotel & Conference Center.

- He gave recognition to Kari for her regular communication and transparency with the CSA.
- MDHHS Director, Nick Lyon, presented to the CSA about the merger between the Michigan Department of Community Health and MDHS.
- The annual Gate Keeper Program was held following the CSA meeting to recognize staff from Consumers Energy and Detroit Energy for going the extra mile to ensure older adults' energy was not turned off. Commissioner Irby announced that next year the Gate Keeper Program will be expanding to include the Marquette Board of Water and Light. He is hoping that the Alpena area will be added to the program sometime in the future.
- The next CSA meeting will be held in Ann Arbor, on Friday, June 19, 2015; a public hearing will be held at 1:00 p.m.

Future CSA dates include:

July 17, 2015—10:00 a.m.--Ferris State University, Big Rapids—
Public Hearing: 1:00 p.m.

August 21, 2015, 9:00 a.m.—Ramada Lansing Hotel & Conference Center

September 18, 2015, 9:00 a.m.—Ramada Lansing Hotel & Conference Center

October 16, 2015, 10:00 a.m.—TBD in Escanaba —Public Hearing at 1:00 p.m.

November 20, 2015, 10:00 a.m.—TBD

December 18, 2015, 10:00 a.m.--TBD

SAC Adjunct Report Follow-up: Lauren Swanson-Aprill shared that the SAC recommendation to change AASA service standard language to include the question, “Have you or your spouse ever served in the U.S. Military?” is being inserted into the AASA Case Coordination and Support and General Requirements For In-Home Service Programs as well as into the options’ counselors reference materials. Linda Strohl asked if this could be included in the Napis reporting. Scott Wamsley explained that AASA is looking at the feasibility of adding a question on military service to the NAPIS data collection form or sampling for the collection of this data in the future and also how to highlight senior volunteers. Scott will look into possibly implementing the recommendations of the SAC report.

The SAC also included recommendations for a positive aging campaign in the adjunct report. AASA convened a staff discussion group on the Positives of Aging and Recommendations from the SAC Reports in June. The committee recommended the following action:

1. Arrange for a follow-up conference call/meeting update about the Senior Strong Campaign with the Southeast Michigan Regional Senior Collaborative
2. Prepare a list of potential newsletter topics
3. Consider asking Ryan Cowmeadow to attend a SAC meeting, sooner if possible to share information about the Senior Strong Campaign.
4. Highlight as many senior volunteers as possible or share their success with volunteering as appropriate with others.

The timeline for working on this is linked to the OSA State Plan objectives that are to be a focus through 2016. We agreed to keep in touch on this and to share information.

To discuss possible collaboration with the Senior Strong campaign, Lauren introduced Ryan Cowmeadow, Advocacy Manager with Region 1B AAA, who is also the Vice Chair of the Southeast Michigan Senior Regional Collaborative Advocacy Committee (SRC). Ryan explained that the SRCAC includes representatives from Macomb, Oakland, and Wayne counties and worked with a marketing firm who conducted focus groups regarding the use of “Senior Strong” as the theme for a positive aging campaign—to change the “face” of aging. The marketing firm tested Macomb, Oakland and Wayne counties, and Ryan shared information from the “I AM Senior Strong -- Awareness/Elevation Campaign. They have developed a website to “share Senior Strong” stories connect seniors with volunteer opportunities, resources and to collect nominations – www.iamseniorstrong.com. They also plan to list printed material and videos and offer a resource library. The SRCAC would like to partner with others across the state in promoting the “I AM Senior Strong” campaign with each region nominating seniors to be show cased in their regions as being “Senior Strong!”

Commissioner Irby looked up the website that is still being worked on, and there is a form to nominate seniors to be added to the campaign. SAC members had the following ideas: Nicolette McClure suggested that information about how to live to be older will

be important to include. Elizabeth Ireland-Curtis suggested coordinating with Facebook and Twitter. Tom Hartwig asked about funding for the initiative. Ryan indicated that it is being supported by United Way and they are looking for further support.

New Business

Bylaws: Commissioner Sheehan reviewed the CSA-approved, revised SAC Bylaws. The SAC Bylaws are reviewed by the CSA every three years. During the CSA's May meeting the following major changes were adopted:

1. The number of representatives for each AAA region will be based upon the number of older adults 60+ living in their regions. Following a review of the state's demographics, it was determined that Regions 1A and 5 may increase their representation to three members and Region 1B may increase to four representatives. The other regions' SAC representation will remain the same.
2. The attendance policy was changed as follows: SAC members with two unexcused absences or four excused absences from face-to-face meetings or telephone workgroup conference calls will be considered by the CSA Chairperson regarding their ability to continue serving.

Related Update: Elizabeth Ireland-Curtis shared that the Disability Network, Flint, in partnership with the Elder Abuse Alliance, received a \$25,000 AASA PREVNT grant award to achieve positive change in at-risk elders and local elder abuse collaborations using evidence-based practices and motivational interviewing training skills in Genesee County.

Election of Vice Chairperson: Nellie Blue moved that John Murphy serve a second year as the SAC Vice Chairperson. Roy Pentilla seconded. John Murphy was unanimously elected by the SAC members present to serve as the Vice Chairperson. Alan Bond sent an email in support as well!

Presentation of Michigan's Direct Care Workforce Overview: Hollis Turnham, Midwest Manager for PHI, an organization that works to improve the quality of eldercare and disability services by improving the jobs of direct-care workers, was introduced by Lauren. Hollis works with a team of three staff based in Michigan and Illinois and has over 30 years of experience in poverty and aging issues. Hollis provided an overview of Michigan's direct care workforce:

Currently, 171,470 frontline direct care workers (DCWs) and over 6,000 businesses serve hundreds of thousands Michigan residents in their own homes. Direct care workers include personal care aides, independent providers (home help aides), home health aides, and nursing assistants (certified nurse aides). By 2022, Michigan will need 195,000 DCWs, or 24,000 more people than are working in these jobs today. The direct care workforce is the fastest growing occupation compared to all other occupations.

In Michigan, there are many retention and recruitment challenges:

- A recovering economy--starting wages in retail and fast food are \$9.00 per hour with Michigan increasing the minimum wage
- Background checks and lack of a rehabilitation appeal process
- Transportation
- Lack of paid time off for sick leave, etc.

In order to reduce poverty and create more self-sufficient families, low-wage jobs including the DCW occupation, need to improve by building DCW career ladders via assessable/affordable DCW training. Michigan, unlike most states, has very few training standards beyond those required by state law. There are many issues to address and Hollis recommended focusing on a key area to move it forward.

Hollis also shared that PHI, like Flint, received a PREVNT grant from AASA to train personal care aides on The Prevention of Adult Abuse and Neglect originally developed and refined as part of two grants that AASA, in collaboration with others including PHI, received in the past.

The SAC will use the information that Hollis provided in studying the direct care workforce which is the Commission's current charge to the SAC.

Review of Workgroup Assignments: Lauren and Commissioner Sheehan reviewed the four workgroups that the SAC Members signed up to be a member of to address direct care workforce issues that will meet in the afternoon. The workgroups include: Marketing Direct Care Workers, Interdisciplinary Team Model, Transportation and Child/Family Care Models, and Training Operations.

Workgroup meetings: The four workgroups met in the afternoon and began outlining key issues to address in the next few months via conference calls.

Direct Deposit of Travel Reimbursement: Vice Chairperson, John Murphy encouraged SAC members to register for direct deposit of travel reimbursements via automated Electronic Fund Transfers instead of receiving paper checks in the mail. Directions and forms were provided and will be sent electronically to all SAC members. Several SAC members are already registered through the State system.

Next Meeting: Please note date change: Thursday, October 22, 2015, 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Ramada Lansing Hotel and Conference Center

Commissioner Sheehan adjourned the meeting at 2:20 p.m.